

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: LANNY GILBERT) Examiner: Nguyen, Toan D
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FOR: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR)
SETTING FUTURE TELECONFERENCE) Confirmation No.
CALLS) 6728
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RESPONSE TO OFFICE IN CONJUNCTION WITH AN RCE

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the following amendments and remarks contained herein in response to the Office Action mailed June 6, 2008, in conjunction with the filing of a Request for Continued Examination. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments and remarks contained herein place the instant application in condition for allowance.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for setting-up a future audio conference between a host party and at least one participant party, said system comprising:

a call control engine for receiving a future audio conference request from the host party, the future audio conference request being received in the control engine from at least one of a land-line telephone via a telephone call, a wireless device via a wireless transmission, and a computer via a web interface configured to receive a confirmation screen whereby the user can make corrections related to the future audio conference request;

wherein the future audio conference request includes a meeting host phone number, ~~and at least one additional future audio conference call party number;~~

wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to a passing of the future audio conference, ~~and;~~

wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to the future audio conference lacking at least one additional future audio conference call party number for at least one participant party;

a conference call database having a plurality of entries, wherein audio conference information associated with the future audio conference request is stored on one of entries;

a call facility for making audio connections, according to the future audio conference request, to the host party and the at least one participant party, said call facility first attempting an audio connection to the host party and making an audio connection to the at least one participant party after the host party has answered the audio connection, the call facility including a common channel signaling system (CCSS);

a call bridging facility for bridging the audio connections between the host party and the at least one participant; and

a timer facility having one or more timers for being set when the future audio conference request is created by the host party, wherein upon expiration of a pre-determined timer setting, indicating that the conference call is to be placed, the call control engine retrieves the future audio conference request information from the conference call database,

the future audio conference request information including an entry for the conference call and a timer, the expiration of which indicating that the conference call is to be placed thereby enabling the call facility to begin placing audio connections;

wherein the call control engine sets up the future audio conference upon at least one of the expiration of the timers in the timer facility, and a polling of the conference call database to determine whether it is time to retrieve the future audio conference request information and set up the future audio conference;

wherein, if the host is unavailable the call control engine disconnects and at least one of removes the audio conference information associated with the future audio conference request from the conference call database, and retries the host before canceling the conference call;

wherein if one or more participant parties are unavailable for initial audio connection, then said call facility automatically re-attempts audio connection to said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection a predetermined number of times before dropping said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection;

wherein the call control engine provides the host party with a meeting confirmation number associated with the future audio conference request, the call control engine changing or canceling the future audio conference request in response to receiving the meeting confirmation number with a request to change or cancel the future audio conference request, and;

wherein the information associated with the future audio conference request is removed from the conference call database in response to the bridging facility bridging the audio connections between the host party and the at least one participant.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the future audio conference request includes

a future meeting time,
a host destination, and
at least one participant destination.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the host destination is a telephone number.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the at least one participant destination is a telephone number.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the audio connections are made through a public switched telephone network.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the host destination is an e-mail address.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the at least one participant destination is an e-mail address.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the host destination is an Internet Protocol address.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the at least one participant destination is an Internet Protocol address.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the audio connections are made through an Internet.

12. – 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method for setting-up a future audio conference call between a host party and at least one participant party, the method comprising:

receiving a future audio conference call request from the host party, the conference request being received in the control engine from at least one of a land-line telephone via a

telephone call, a wireless device via a wireless transmission, and a computer via a web interface configured to receive a confirmation screen whereby the user can make corrections related to the future audio conference request, and prompting the host party on a communication device for audio conference information associated with the future audio conference call request, wherein the future audio conference request includes a meeting host phone number, ~~and at least one additional future audio conference call party number,~~ and

wherein a call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to a passing of the future audio conference;

wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to the future audio conference lacking at least one additional future audio conference call party number for at least one participant party. and;

wherein the audio conference information includes

a future meeting time,

a host party destination, and

at least one participant party destination;

storing the future audio conference call request in a database entry;

providing the host party with a meeting confirmation number associated with the future audio conference request;

changing or canceling the future audio conference request in response to receiving the meeting confirmation number with a request to change or cancel the future audio conference request;

retrieving the database entry, including a timer, the expiration of which indicating that the conference call is to be placed, at the future meeting time, in response to at least one of an expiration of a timer in a timer facility, indicating that the conference call is to be placed, the timer being set when the future audio conference request is created by the host party, and a polling of the conference call database to determine whether it is time to retrieve the future audio conference request information and set up the future audio conference;

attempting to connect the host party destination at the future meeting time via a call facility;

wherein, if the host is unavailable the call control engine disconnects and at least one of removes the audio conference information associated with the future audio conference

request from the conference call database, and retries the host before canceling the conference call;

connecting the at least one participant party destination if the host party destination establishes a connection; and

bridging the host party destination to the at least one participant party destination;

wherein if one or more participant parties are unavailable for initial audio connection, then said call facility automatically re-attempts audio connection to said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection a predetermined number of times before dropping said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection, and;

wherein the information associated with the future audio conference request is removed from the conference call database in response to the bridging facility bridging the audio connections between the host party and the at least one participant.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein bridging the host party destination to the at least one participant party destination is accomplished on a telephone switch.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein connecting the host party destination is accomplished through an Internet.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the setting of the timer includes associating the timer to the database entry.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium for storing a computer program that sets up a future audio conference call between a host party and at least one participant party, the computer program for use in:

receiving a future audio conference call request from the host party, the future audio conference request being received in the control engine from a communication device including at least one any of a land-line telephone via a telephone call, a wireless device via a wireless transmission, and a computer via a web interface configured to receive a confirmation screen whereby the user can make corrections related to the future audio

conference request, wherein the future audio conference request includes a meeting host phone number,³ and ~~at least one additional future audio conference call party number, and;~~

wherein a call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to a passing of the future audio conference, and;

wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to the future audio conference lacking at least one additional future audio conference call party number for at least one participant party;

prompting the host party on the communication device for audio conference information associated with the future audio conference call request, wherein the audio conference information includes

a future meeting time,

a host party destination, and

at least one participant party destination;

storing the audio conference information in a database entry;

providing the host party with a meeting confirmation number associated with the future audio conference request³;

changing or canceling the future audio conference request in response to receiving the meeting confirmation number with a request to change or cancel the future audio conference request;

retrieving the database entry, including a timer, the expiration of which indicating that the conference call is to be placed, at the future meeting time, in response to at least one of an expiration of a timer in a timer facility, indicating that the conference call is to be placed, the timer being set when the future audio conference request is created by the host party, and a polling of the conference call database to determine whether it is time to retrieve the future audio conference request information and set up the future audio conference;

attempting to connect the host party destination via a call facility³;

wherein, if the host is unavailable the call control engine disconnects and at least one of removes the audio conference information associated with the future audio conference request from the conference call database, and retries the host before canceling the conference call;

connecting the at least one participant party destination if the host party destination

establishes a connection; and

bridging the host party destination to the at least one participant party destination;³

wherein each of said at least one participant party is contacted via said call facility regardless of intention or availability and without a capability of responding or directly communicating with said call facility;³ and

wherein if one or more participant parties are unavailable for initial audio connection, then said call facility automatically re-attempts audio connection to said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection a predetermined number of times before dropping said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection, and³

wherein the information associated with the future audio conference request is removed from the conference call database in response to the bridging facility bridging the audio connections between the host party and the at least one participant.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the program is for further use in:

setting the timer, and

associating the timer to the database entry.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the wireless device is a cellular telephone having a display for receiving the prompting for the audio conference information associated with the future audio conference call request and having a keypad for sending the audio conference information.

26. (Currently Amended) A system for setting future teleconference calls, said system comprising:

a call set-up system having a timer facility, a call facility, a bridging facility, a call control engine, and a conference database, the call set-up system being connected to a public switched telephone network (PSTN) and to an Internet and having access to a common channel signaling system (CCSS), the PSTN including at least one public switch and conferencing hardware, the call set-up system being accessible to by a plurality of

communication devices including at least one of a land-line telephone via a telephone call, the telephone being connected to a public switch, the public switch being connected to the PSTN, a wireless device via a wireless transmission, and a computer via a web interface configured to receive a confirmation screen whereby the user can make corrections related to the future audio conference request, wherein a call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to a passing of the future audio conference, the call set-up system to perform a method, including:

prompting for teleconference information on a communication device of the plurality of communications devices, the teleconference information including a teleconference date and time, a host telephone number, ~~and at least one participant telephone number;~~

wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to the future audio conference lacking at least one additional future audio conference call party number for at least one participant party;

receiving the teleconference information;

storing the teleconference information in the conference database, the teleconference information including an entry for the teleconference and a timer, the expiration of which indicating that the teleconference is to be started;

retrieving the teleconference information at the teleconference date and time, in response to at least one of an expiration of a timer in the timer facility, the timer being set when the future audio conference request is created by the host party, and the timer expiring when the conference call is to be placed, and a polling of the conference call database to determine whether it is time to retrieve the future audio conference request information and set up the future audio conference;

placing a host call to the host telephone number at the teleconference date and time, wherein, if the host is unavailable the call control engine disconnects and at least one of removes the audio conference information associated with the future audio conference request from the conference call database, and retries the host before canceling the conference call;

after receiving an first answer at the host telephone number, placing at least one participant call to the at least one participant telephone number;

after receiving at least one second answer at the at least one participant telephone number, bridging the host call and the at least one participant call;

wherein if one or more participant parties are unavailable for initial audio connection, then said call facility automatically re-attempts audio connection to said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection a predetermined number of times before dropping said one or more participant parties unavailable for initial audio connection;

wherein the call control engine provides the host party with a meeting confirmation number associated with the future audio conference request, the call control engine changing or canceling the future audio conference request in response to receiving the meeting confirmation number with a request to change or cancel the future audio conference request, and;

wherein the information associated with the future audio conference request is removed from the conference call database in response to the bridging facility bridging the audio connections between the host party and the at least one participant.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the wireless device includes a cellular telephone, the cellular telephone being in radio communication with a base station, the base station being connected to a mobile switching center (MSC), the mobile switching center being connected to the PSTN.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the wireless device includes a personal digital assistant (PDA), the PDA being connected to an Internet service provider (ISP) the ISP being connected to a public switch and the Internet, the public switch being connected to the PSTN.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the computer is connected to an Internet service provider (ISP) the ISP being connected to a public switch and the Internet, the public switch being connected to the PSTN.

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated June 6, 2008, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 19-26, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Wu (US 6,275,575) in view of Hogan et al. (US 5,483,587) and Culbreth et al. (US 5,953,393) further in view of Palmer et al. (US 5,546,324). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Applicant respectfully submits that the current amendment renders the rejection moot.

Claim 1 as amended recites, *inter alia*, “wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to the future audio conference lacking at least one additional future audio conference call party number for at least one participant party.” None of Wu, Hogan, Culbreth and Palmer teaches or otherwise makes obvious this feature. Wu was relied upon for establishing the teleconference and teaches establishing the teleconferences in Figures 8 and 9A. These Figures and the associated description in Wu do not teach or suggest “wherein the call control engine is configured to reject the future audio conference request in response to the future audio conference lacking at least one additional future audio conference call party number for at least one participant party.” Since none of Hogan, Culbreth and Palmer cures the above-identified deficiencies of Wu, the combined teaching of Wu, Hogan, Culbreth and Palmer does not teach or otherwise make obvious claim 1.

Further, claim 1 recites “wherein upon expiration of a pre-determined timer setting, indicating that the conference call is to be placed, the call control engine retrieves the future audio conference request information from the conference call database, the future audio conference request information including an entry for the conference call and a timer, the expiration of which indicating that the conference call is to be placed thereby enabling the call facility to begin placing audio connections; wherein the call control engine sets up the future audio conference upon at least one of the expiration of the timers in the timer facility,

and a polling of the conference call database to determine whether it is time to retrieve the future audio conference request information and set up the future audio conference.”

By contrast, the cited section of the Office Action, that is Figure 9A, col. 10, lines 34-43, teaches “At 902 *a determination is made as to whether all the responses have been received from the selected participants or if a pre-established time limit for receipt of those responses has expired.* Upon receipt of all the responses or expiration of the pre-determined time interval, the responses are processed and the processed information is forwarded to the coordinator at 904. At 906 a determination is made as to whether the final instructions/conformation has been received from the coordinator. At 908 the coordinator *may select timed initiation 910 of the telephone conference or manual initiation 912.* At 914 the control script for the telephone conference server is generated and forwarded and the process is concluded.” It can clearly be seen that Wu’s time limit refers to a time during which responses to whether or not the participants wish to be included in the call and *after which* the coordinator then decides to initiate the call. In contrast, the timers in Applicant’s claimed invention are set once all participants have been identified and the meeting set. The timers then expire to actually start the conference call. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Wu does not teach or otherwise make obvious claim 1. Since none of Hogan, Culbreth and Palmer cures the above-identified deficiencies of Wu, the combined teaching of Wu, Hogan, Culbreth and Palmer does not teach or otherwise make obvious claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Wu in view of Hogan and Culbreth and Palmer. Claims 19, 23, and 26 recites features similar to those discussed above with reference to claim 1 and are patentable over Wu and Hogan and Culbreth and Palmer for at least the reasons advanced with reference to Claim 1. Claims 3-8, 11 and 25 depend from Claim 1, Claims 20-22 depend upon Claim 19, Claim 24 depends upon Claim 23, and Claim 28 depends upon Claim 26, and is patentable over Wu and Hogan and Culbreth and Palmer for at least the reasons advanced with reference to Claims 1, 19, 23 and 26.

Claims 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Wu (US 6,275,575) in view of Hogan et al. (US 5,483,587), Culbreth et al. (US 5,953,393)

and Palmer et al. (US 5,546,324) further in view of Roy (US 6,697,341). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

It is respectfully submitted that Wu in view of Hogan and Culbreth and Palmer and further in view of Roy do not teach or otherwise make obvious Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 19-26 and 28, either individually or in combination.

Roy fails to cure the deficiencies of Wu and Hogan and Culbreth and Palmer as discussed above with reference to Claim 1. Claims 9 and 10 depend from Claim 1 and are patentable over Wu and Hogan and Culbreth and Palmer in view of Roy for at least the reasons advanced with respect to Claim 1.

Claims 29 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Wu (US 6,275,575) in view of Hogan et al. (US 5,483,587), Culbreth et al. (US 5,953,393) and Palmer et al. (US 5,546,324) further in view of Buskirk, Jr. (US 6,178,183). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

It is respectfully submitted that Wu in view of Hogan and Culbreth and Palmer further in view of Buskirk, Jr. do not teach or otherwise make obvious Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 19-26 and 28, either individually or in combination.

Buskirk, Jr., fails to cure the deficiencies of Wu and Hogan and Culbreth and Palmer as discussed above with reference to Claim 26. Claims 29 and 30 depend from Claim 26 and are patentable over Wu and Hogan and Culbreth and Palmer in view of Buskirk, Jr. for at least the reasons advanced with respect to Claim 26.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicant. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested. If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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